

through college, but the boy who goes back to his home after a year or two of training, who needs to know the difference between a saw and a plane and how to do things with them.

The same thing is true about Sunday-school work. If we had some effective agency by which we could give those boys and girls who have had a few years of schooling and a small amount of training, some practical instruction in Sunday-school work and methods of teaching, we should do a good work. Here, again, what they need is to know how, how to do it, how to interest their parents and pastors and members of their churches in that kind of work. If they have not found the connection between their knowledge and the work necessary to be done, their knowledge is of very little value to them.

Danger of Taking Too Much for Granted

The second danger I would speak of is of taking too much for granted in the background of our students' life. I don't think there can be a white man here who has come into contact with the young Negro in the South, who has not been surprised again and again to see how utterly he was failing to make effective numbers of things in the lives of the young people because what he took for granted in the student life and experience was not there. There is a certain excuse for the white teacher who does this, because he does not know; but if you Negro educators should do the same thing you would have more to answer for, because you know. You know what the lives of the majority of these young people are, and you know that there are a great many things that the white boy or girl absorbs in his home that the black boy knows nothing about.

We are constantly finding, after years of instruction, that the very simplest things that we take for granted are the very things in which the most elementary training is needed. We need to give a great deal of instruction in practical morality,—not abstract ethics, but concrete moral duties. Some of us are a little afraid to assume that our people know but little. But when we do, and give instruction in the simplest terms, we find out that we are really affecting the lives of those young people.

Courtship, Marriage, and the Home

When I was president of the college in Atlanta, I felt that one of the most useful things I did was giving a couple of lectures on courtship, marriage, and home, in the simplest possible way. And I found myself saying to myself, "I am amazed to think that

I have been here in this institution all these years with these young people about me year after year and I have never talked to them seriously and at length about these subjects that enter so deeply into their lives." We have got to push aside false timidity about these things and call a spade a spade and a post a post. And when you appeal to the Negro on the side of his moral earnestness, when you look him in the face and make direct appeal to his conscience, you get the most earnest attention, you get his interest in a way that you don't even when you speak to his emotional side. Now, if we approach this work in this way, if we realize and recognize the fact that they need the most elementary training in everything, we will do well.

Needs of the Great Majority

Of course, you understand that I am speaking now of those who come to us from poor homes and from parents who have had no advantages at all, and that means that I am talking about the great majority. It is the man who has the knack of bringing things down into the hearts and lives of these people who really is making connection. The fact that we have in these universities and colleges these boys and girls makes for us a great opportunity. Think what a tremendous advantage that is for them to be associated for a year or two with Christian students and Christian teachers, to get a broader outlook on life and then go back to their homes to stay and spend their lives there. For that reason we have the most effective agency under present conditions for reaching directly the mass of the colored people.

I was very careful to say "under present conditions" because I am thoroughly convinced of one thing,—that we are never going to do this work, we are never going to accomplish this task that God has laid on this nation until the Christian churches of the South awaken to their responsibility. I look upon the points in the South where southern churches are doing this work as points of light.

The southern Methodist Church is carrying on a large school for Negroes. It is very interesting that when these good southern brethren of ours do put their hands to this work, they do it in about the same way as the northern societies. There is no institution South that has a higher college ideal than Payne College in Augusta, under the auspices of the southern Methodist Church. There is Mr. Little, who, under the auspices of the southern Presbyterian Church is doing this almost despised work in the city of Louisville. And more than anything else in this work, I